

Keefer, Kennard, King, Lausdale, Larsh, Lee, Mace, Marbury, Markey, McComas, Mitchell, Miller, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Parran, Peter, Purnell, Ridgely, Robinette, Russell, Sands, Schley, Schlosser, Scott, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Dorchester, Sneyry, Stirling, Stockbridge, Sykes, Thomas, Thurston, Turner, Valliant, Wickard, Wooden—78.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

ORPHANS' COURTS.

Mr. AUBURN submitted the following order:

Ordered, That the Committee on the Judiciary be and they are hereby requested to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the several Orphans' Courts of this State to ratify and confirm the sale of real estate, as fully as any Court of Equity could do, in all cases of intestacy where the personal estate is not sufficient to pay the debts of the intestate; and also, in all cases where the sale of real estate belonging to wards under the care of the Orphans' Courts, may be deemed to be to the advantage of any such ward or wards.

Which was adopted.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS—EMANCIPATION.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the report of the Committee on the Declaration of Rights, which was on its second reading.

The article under consideration was the following:

"Article 23. That hereafter, in this State, there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except in punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted; and all persons held to service or labor as slaves are hereby declared free."

The pending question was upon the following amendment, submitted by Mr. BROWN:

Add to the 23d Article, the following:

"And the Legislature shall make provision from the Treasury of the State for the comfortable support and maintenance of the helpless and paupers hereby emancipated."

Mr. PURNELL. Mr. President: The order which was adopted last night, limiting the debate upon this article of the Declaration of Rights to two o'clock to-day, has placed me under the necessity of offering a few remarks to the Convention this morning, in support of the article under consideration. I feel a very great degree of embarrassment in doing so, from the fact that there have already been offered some very eloquent and able arguments, to which I have listened with pleasure, from gentlemen on both sides of this house upon the subject of emancipation. I have been instructed and edified by each of these arguments. As a matter of course, this subject having been so fully discussed, and so ably examined and reviewed by gentlemen here, I

must appear as a mere gleaner, the harvest having already been secured.

Mr. President: I have abstained from taking any prominent part in the discussion of the various articles contained in the report of the Committee upon the Declaration of Rights, which have been considered and adopted by the Convention. And I should now content myself by casting a silent vote for the adoption of the twenty-third article under consideration, if it were not for the fact that it embraces a subject, and is declaratory of a principle, in which a confiding and generous constituency of the county of Worcester, which I have the honor in part to represent, are deeply interested. Being also an humble member of the committee which reported the article and recommended its adoption as a part of the organic law of the State, I feel it my duty to offer a few remarks in support of that proposition. And in discharge of that duty, I will remark in advance of anything that I may say on this occasion, that the policy of emancipation which forms the basis of that article, has been fully discussed in the county of Worcester, and constituted really the only issue upon which the canvass was conducted, and upon the result of which my colleagues and myself were charged with the high and responsible mission we now bear to this Convention.

We appear here as the mere agents of a patriotic and loyal people—reflecting, as we think, their opinions; and to carry into execution their wishes upon this and such other subjects and principles as they may deem best adapted to their own peculiar circumstances; and, as they believe, for the advancement of the prosperity and interest of the State.

In discussing this subject, therefore, I propose to offer a few reasons why I favor and advocate the policy of immediate emancipation in Maryland; and why, at this particular period in her history. First, because, in my judgment, slavery was the principal cause of this wicked rebellion. Second, because it has been and is now, a support and material aid in carrying on the war. Third, because it is inconsistent with the prosperity and true interests of Maryland, and not adapted to the development of her agricultural and mineral resources. Fourth, because the institution of slavery has been already destroyed by the rebellion, and should no longer be recognized and retained in the Constitution of the State. And, fifth, because there never will be any permanent peace between the North and the South, so long as slavery exists as a disturbing element.

It has been apparent to the most superficial observer, and well understood by those who are familiar with the history of the times for a period of more than thirty years past, that there have been a misguided and reckless set